

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-21 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5-11, 14-15 AND 17-21 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TSUZAKI IN VIEW OF LELIC

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the pumping light and the auxiliary light cause Raman amplification of the multi-wavelength light. Somewhat similar amendments are made to the other independent claims. See, for example, page 17, lines 14-23; and page 19, lines 10-14, of the specification.

Tsuzaki does not disclose or suggest such features.

Moreover, as recited in claim 1, the auxiliary light controller changes the optical power of the auxiliary light with a prescribed response time based on a change in input power of the multi-wavelength light.

Tsuzaki does not disclose or suggest such an auxiliary light controller. More specifically, Tsuzaki does not disclose or suggest an auxiliary light controller that changes the optical power of the auxiliary light *with a prescribed response time* based on a change in input power of the multi-wavelength light.

FIG. 2A of Lelic discloses sub-controllers 231, 232. However, as indicated in column 10, lines 30-35, of Lelic, the sub-controllers are configured so as to make a response time associated with the process of adjusting the power of the pumping light as short as possible. Namely, Lelic is not concerned with setting the response speed to any predetermined level. Therefore, the sub-controllers of Lelic are substantially different than the auxiliary light controller recited, for example, in claim 1.

Please note that the response time is recited in further detail in, for example, claims 6-8. Various embodiments of the present invention relating to the response time are disclosed, for example, in FIGS. 8-9, and the corresponding disclosure on page 22, line 25, through page 27, line 24, of the specification. Lelic does not disclose or suggest such features.

Moreover, the amplifier in Lelic is not a Raman amplifier. Instead, the amplifier in Lelic is an EDFA (rare-earth doped fibers 208, 219). It is respectfully submitted that the sub-controllers of the EDFA of Lelic should not be combined with the Raman amplifier of Tsuzaki.

Moreover, as indicated above, it is respectfully submitted that the operation of the sub-controllers in Lelic is substantially different than that recited, for example, in claim 1. Therefore,

it is respectfully submitted that even if Lelic was combined with Tsuzaki, the combination would not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other claims over the cited references.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 12 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TSUZAKI IN VIEW OF OKUNO

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIM 16 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TSUZAKI IN VIEW OF LELIC AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF ZIARA

The comments in Section II, above, also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. IDS

An IDS was filed concurrently herewith. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS.

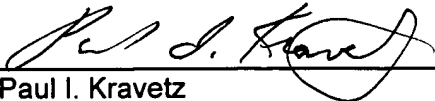
VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: August 25, 2006

By: 
Paul I. Kravetz
Registration No. 35,230

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501